

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

7 MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
YOU CAN'T DO YOUR SHOPPING SO VERY EARLY BUT YOU CAN STILL DO IT AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

## Keeping Young

MOSES WOHL, of New York, is 100 years old. He has fifteen great-grandchildren, and on his hundredth birthday he smoked a dozen cigars and danced the tango and fox trot with some of them. That is, with some of the great-grandchildren, not the cigars.

Fox trotting at life's century mark will seem to some ridiculous, but it is half so ridiculous as retiring into old age at sixty? Here to Moses Wohl, whose 100 relatives helped celebrate his 100 years. May he live to be 105—not a day less—and on that occasion may he dance until the heels of his shoes kick the shine off his honorable coat tail. He teaches us to keep young, which is a cheap enough lesson, and worth every cent it costs.

## Preserve Virginia's Game!

THE TIMES-DISPATCH printed the other day an article by William Todd, president of the Virginia Game and Game Fish Protective Association, that revealed the mournful status this State occupies in the important matter of game protection. Mr. Todd says that in efficient game laws we are fourth from the bottom in the roll of American Commonwealths, and that even the measures now on the statute books are not enforced, because no sensible provision is made for their enforcement.

This is a serious indictment. All around us and in other sections of the country States are taking thought for the conservation of game. Already, in the absence of just regulation, the depredations of the pot hunter and the greedy and thoughtless sportsman are making themselves evident in Virginia. It is a subject that deserves, and even demands, the attention of good citizens in general and of members of the Legislature in particular.

## "The More Haste, the Less Speed"

THE essential truth of the old saying, "The more haste, the less speed," has found illustration again, this time in the effort to pass a municipal ordinance appropriating \$125,000 to provide work for the unemployed. The sponsors for this desirable legislation were so anxious to get it through Council that they neglected to put it in proper form, and this omission the Board of Aldermen now has called on to remedy.

Apparently in this case the delay will not be serious, for a special meeting of Council has been called for to-morrow night, and there is no question that the amended substitute ordinance will be passed and sent to the Mayor for his signature.

It should be gratifying to the community at large that the Aldermen voted down the effort to distribute the fund among various city departments and left the allotment to the discretion of the Administrative Board. That is the wiser policy. Any rule-of-thumb distribution necessarily would have been defective and needed public work might have been neglected, while an available appropriation was lying idle or expended on improvements that would not suffer from delay.

## Another Sign of New Prosperity

REDUCTION by the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank of the rediscount rate on commercial paper inaugurates an era of larger usefulness for that institution to the district it serves. The rates that prevailed until yesterday were little, if any, lower than those ordinary banks of the district charged, and so there was small inducement to utilize the rediscount privilege that the reserve bank offered.

In the statement made public last Saturday, the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank showed loans and rediscounts of but \$748,000, compared with total cash on hand of \$8,489,000. It certainly was not the intention of the currency act that so much money should lie idle. Save for the reserves required by law, it was intended to flow back from the reserve banks, through the medium of rediscounts, into the member banks and so into the channels of trade.

The lowering of the discount rate will make money easier. Member banks will be more generous with their customers when they can shift a part of the burden on the

central institution and suffer no loss in the process.

Financial clouds are clearing away pretty rapidly nowadays. Retail business is good and the jobbers are recovering their lost activity, even in the cotton States. Reliable report has it that the Interstate Commerce Commission will grant substantially at least, the plea of the Eastern railroads for increased rates. That relief, if it comes, will be followed by more substantial earnings and by a revival of the steel and allied industries, so largely dependent on the railroads for their well being.

The outlook, on the whole, is bright. Some time will be needed to recover from the effects of war-induced depression, but every sign points the conclusion that complete recovery and a solid and substantial prosperity are not only assured, but things of the not far distant future.

## A "Purple Paper" From Huerta

VICTORIANO HUERTA is only a former President of Mexico, which is no particular distinction, but his recent cablegram from Spain to American newspapers is in a class quite different, for a certain forthright directness and intelligibility from the white, yellow, and other hued "papers" issued by the various European governments concerning what brought about the European conflict.

Mr. Huerta does not call upon the judgment of mankind for fitting epithets to apply to Messrs. Carranza, Zapata and Villa. He merely goes into his own mind and produces therefrom the unequivocal statement that the man who asserts that he (Huerta) has a villainous liar—whatever other vices he may have, Mr. Huerta has never been accused of being a punster—and then he proceeds to "solemnly declare" that he can never have dealings with "Carranza, the four-flusher; Zapata, the highwayman, nor with Villa, the jailbird."

Let it be admitted that the estimable and euphonious Victoriano has some acquaintance with the three Mexican leaders as to whom he issued his "emphatic statement." Therefore, his carefully differentiated descriptions of them are not without interest. Mr. Carranza is dubbed "a four-flusher," a term, as we have learned after much arduous research, is applied to one engaged in a game at cards known as "draw poker" who seeks to appropriate the stakes on a "hand" that contains four cards of the same suite and one of another, whereas five cards of the same suite are the irreducible minimum. Figuratively, then, it is applied to one without the power to achieve his desires or enforce his wishes—a man basically less than he would have others think him to be or than he thinks himself to be. Perhaps intelligent observers of Mexican affairs would not be disposed to challenge very resolutely this characterization of Mexico's most bewhiskered Constitutionalist.

In referring to the energetic Mr. Zapata as a "highwayman," we assume that Mr. Huerta means to be taken literally, and would insinuate that that son of Mars is prone to make wayfarers "stand and deliver" at the point of the pistol, and that he does not intend to convey figuratively that Mr. Zapata's political morality does not approximate the high ideals of Mr. Huerta himself.

After calling one gentleman a highway, it is a bit of an anticlimax to call the next one merely a jailbird, the description which Victoriano applies to Villa. And then there are jailbirds and jailbirds. Some are eagles and others are crows. Some have the atmosphere of noisome cells, and others of the big out-of-doors. Some croak hoarsely; others issue words of command that are heard and obeyed. Victoriano's "purple paper" would be even more illuminating than it is, had it specified just what sort of a jailbird "Pancho" Villa is.

## Stamp Out Shop-Lifting!

RICHMOND department stores that have united in a determined and aggressive crusade against shop-lifting deserve credit for their efforts to stamp out this particularly offensive form of dishonesty. The shop-lifter usually is a woman who is not driven to theft by anything resembling necessity. Either she is an old hand at the game, engaged in it wholly for profit, or else, prompted by a foolish vanity, is endeavoring to supply deficiencies in her wardrobe at somebody else's expense.

In either case the failure to prosecute is a false kindness, both to the offender and to the community. It confirms her in her practices, encourages the emulation of others similarly weak in mind or morals, and adds an expense to store management that the public has to meet.

Thefts of this type should be followed by arrest and punishment. In cities where a mistaken leniency encourages their commission, a system of espionage is made necessary, that is not nearly so inconspicuous as it is believed to be by the talented sleuths who conduct it, and that frequently is the occasion of gross annoyance to respectable women.

A few jail sentences, in cases where the evidence is clear and no palliating circumstances are shown, would have an excellent effect.

## Employment Bureau's Highest Duty

NOW that the public employment bureau has been provided by municipal ordinance, it ought to be hoped, and will be, The Times-Dispatch believes, that the bureau will not confine itself to a mere perfunctory discharge of the duties entrusted to it. It should concern itself as well with the causes of unemployment and with some contribution to the problem's permanent solution, as with furnishing jobs and supplying temporary relief.

Whether it will or not depends almost entirely on the quality of the men selected by the Mayor for places on the board. If they are of the ordinary flotsam and jetsam of politics, it is not difficult to imagine the kind of service they will render. If they are of a higher type, possessing some acquaintance with and feeling some interest in sociological problems, Richmond will have a right to expect substantial results.

Nobody believes that this age-old puzzle is to be answered out of hand, but its difficulty is not preventing its consideration by agencies of government and constructive charity all over the world. Something can be done here, at least to point the way to the correction of some industrial wrongs.

New York's Mayor demands a record of crimes. Quaker ambition, but New York is keeping awake nights trying to gratify it.

When it comes to neutrality, the belligerents will find that typhoid fever plays no favorites.

## SONGS AND SAWS

**Taught by Experience.**  
Little Johnny had a feeling  
That his elders were not wise,  
When they counseled moderation  
In consumption of mince pies.

**Now our Johnny has a feeling**  
That he is on more acute,  
As the pains by pie engendered  
Through his anguished system shoot.

**The Penitent Says:**  
Keep your hand on your pocketbook when you are shopping these days. Sometimes you do have something left.

**Revenge is Sweet.**  
Farmer Deepfurrows—Laff on, consarn you. When we have jowl and sprouts for dinner next week that laugh will be on the other side of my mouth.

**At the Play.**  
She—This wait between the acts seems to me to be dreadfully long.  
He—Yes. You see twenty years are supposed to elapse and the management is trying to make the effect as realistic as possible.

**Real Melody.**  
Stubbs—Jones likes to hear himself talk, doesn't he?  
Tubs—I should say he does. Why that man would rather listen to his own views on the weather than to Shakespearean literature or Mrs. Pankhurst's on the wrongs of her sex.

**Explaining.**  
"Let me ask you something, dad?"  
"Go to it."  
"How is Santa Claus going to get down the chimney in this house? He is twice as fat as the chimney is wide."

**Mighty Near.**  
Now all the little girls and boys  
Are happy as can be;  
For Christmas, with its games and toys  
Approaches rapidly.

They will, for one more irksome week,  
And then for freedom they will streak—  
For freedom out of school.

**THE TATTLER.**

## Chats With Virginia Editors

"Contemplating the European war from a human viewpoint, and meditating upon the awful carnage that follows in its wake, we are very impressed with the truth of Sherman's declaration that 'war is hell.'," says the West Point Sun, with an air of finality. Which seems to make it pretty near unanimous.

Says the Radford Record: "We must not forget that Opportunity is knocking at our door. Let us open up and grab Opportunity by the forelock. When he is in the house we may scratch the back of his bald head in vain." This looks like a case of mistaken identity. Anything in the guise of Opportunity that has grown bald-headed in the chase to get in on the ground floor in this enlightened age is a masquerader and should be turned away like any common knocker.

Statistics quoted by the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: "The budget of the Rockefeller Foundation shows an expenditure of \$1,000,000 for Belgian relief, \$2,500,000 for medical research and \$225,000 for the purchase of \$5,000 acres of land in Louisiana to be used as a bird refuge." How firm a foundation!

Suggestion, not necessarily mental suggestion, from the Lynchburg Advance: "Gentle reader, picture to yourself an aged and attenuated Uncle Sam covering and clinging before the ferocious aspect of a gorilla, a set of Mexican whippersnappers. That's the picture." All right. We visualize it. Looks like it was painted by a Welsh rarebit. Doesn't it?

The earnest appeal of the Newport News Times-Herald, "Give the girls in the stores a Christmas present by shopping soon," sounds like an admonition from the Ghost of Christmas Past.

The Petersburg Index-Appeal says: "The girls of the Philadelphia school have given up pickles in order to help the poor out of their pickle. How sweet of them." And what an edifying example for the man who has not given up getting pickled.

"Somebody is now urging that the United States claim the sovereignty of the North Pole," the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot remarks, and adds: "All right, let the order at once issue that Doctor Cook shall forthwith proceed to take possession of and hold it in name of Uncle Sam." Reference to the matter of acquiring land, of course, purposely omitted, the experiences of Cook and Peary having demonstrated that no one can hold it with security.

## Current Editorial Comment

America's strength must always lie, primarily, in her people. Her political and geographical advantages, the Atlantic on one side, the Pacific on the other, the unfortified Canadian boundary line, which need never be fortified unless America attempts to become a great military and naval power such as the general board recommends, and the countries without military strength lying between the Rio Grande and the Panama Canal provide a complete isolation that any other great country of ancient or modern history has enjoyed. As long as this country keeps aloof from the militarism of Europe and from the political problems with which the leading European powers concern themselves for the purpose of national defense, we will be far greater than two naval units for every unit of the existing navy could make her.

Inasmuch as America deserts her ideals to adopt the ways of Europe, enemies she forfeits the confidence of European nations in her professions of freedom from imperialistic intentions, and even in world politics simple honesty and public confidence are worth a great deal as insurance against interference. This country needs nothing more than defenses against foreign aggression. The greatest catastrophe that could attack the foundations and structure of the leading republic would be the inauguration of a policy of becoming the first naval power, and that, and nothing more or less, is what the general board would have, and what Secretary Daniels wisely and patriotically opposes.

—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Alaska legislation for the building of a government railway and the leasing of coal lands is to be supplemented by further legislation providing for the leasing of water-power sites and of phosphate, oil and gas lands, if the Senate shall give its approval at the December session of Congress. The House approved bills providing for these matters just prior to its adjournment. One water-power bill relates to the construction of dams in navigable waters and the other relates to power sites on public lands. Provision is made in both for fifty-year leases, with an option of purchase by the government after three years' notice. Both bills are hedged about with provisions designed to prevent monopoly and price control. Price regulation is likely to become the difficult point upon which to secure agreement. The passage of these bills is likely to add much to Alaska's possibilities for future progress. In addition to the impetus to industry that would accrue from the use of the vast water-power of the Territory, there is a great field for industry in the phosphate business. There is now a great demand for phosphate because of the cutting off of the European

supply through the war conditions. Alaska water-power could be applied to the manufacture of the needed nitrate. With the several measures proposed for liberating Alaska's resources and the legislation already secured, Congress will no doubt complete the work by approving water-power and mineral land leasing bills. With this added legislation, and its railroads and its coal lands opened, the Territory will face a period of great prosperity and general expansion of industry and growth of population.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

How does it happen that many of those who are most insistent in their demand for more battle-ships are most opposed to the New President's shipping bill? Why should they object to the government's operating merchant ships along routes where the demand for them is never seen? From the point of view of naval preparedness, they are wholly wrong. Naval experts have estimated during the last week that in time of war the navy would require at least 200 merchant ships for auxiliary service. Various kinds of worthless old tubs and extortionate prices, as it did during the Spanish-American War. The President's shipping bill fits in admirably with every scheme of rational naval expansion; yet some of the men who are fighting it hardest are men who are most clamorous for a greater navy. Is old Ship Subsidy trying to hide under the American flag again until he can make another dash to the Treasury?—New York World.

**War News Fifty Years Ago**  
(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 17, 1864.)

The monotony on the lines around Richmond and Petersburg has been broken only by the advent of many deserters from the Federal lines. These are mostly German and hired soldiers of other foreign nations. It seems that these foreigners are deserting the Federal armies in large numbers, whole battalions coming over at a time. The result is that the Federals are selecting their picket forces only from the ranks of the New England, New York and Pennsylvania regiments, and these are instructed to shoot deserters on the spot. In fact, a combination reward of a thirty-dollar bounty and \$20 in greenbacks has been offered to any picket who shoots or arrests a deserter.

The enemy now has on the Richmond side of the James River the Twenty-fourth corps (white) and the Eighteenth corps, in which all of the armed and trained troops are consolidated. The Twenty-fourth occupies a part of the line to our extreme left, while the negroes darken the works from Fort Harrison, inclusive, down to the river's edge.

Under date of December 13, E. M. Stanton, the Secretary of War of the United States, wired General Dix in New York that he had no news worthy of mention except such as he had gathered from the Richmond papers of the day before, and that was as follows: "Richmond papers report General Sherman at Bloomsdale, fifteen miles from Savannah. The severity of the winter weather has prevented any important move by either side at Nashville. Nothing of importance is reported from the army of the Potomac or of the Shenandoah."

Northern papers insist that a portion of General Hood's army, under General Lyon, has crossed the Cumberland River, twenty miles above Fort Donelson, to invade Kentucky, and have captured Hopkinsville. The Twenty-fourth corps, with a force of 10,000 men is at Sparta, Tenn., endeavoring to form a junction with the army of the Shenandoah.

In the Senate of the State Legislature yesterday Mr. Nash, of Chesterfield County, made his first appearance and took his seat. In explanation of his absence since the first assembling of the Legislature he said he was a Confederate soldier and had a wound, and he had been very busy in the field since the assembling of the lawmakers, and this was the first chance he had had to leave the front. His "excuse" was received with applause, and after shaking hands with every Senator on the floor he modestly took his seat.

The so-called peace resolutions offered in the Confederate Senate yesterday by Mr. Turner, of North Carolina, were amended out of all shape, and finally withdrawn for the present. Mr. Barksdale, of Mississippi, was the man who did the most of the amending.

The markets are rather poorly supplied with Christmas luxuries. Turkeys and chickens are very scarce, and Santa Claus seems to have entirely overlooked Richmond. The indications are that the Christmas festivities of this year will be very much on the lean order.

**The Voice of the People**  
One invention already provided.  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In an editorial several weeks ago headed "Inventors, Attention!" in speaking of possible inventions of the future, you say that "some of these days some one will invent a self-basting and cooking turkey, and when the temperature will automatically turn off the gas when the turkey or roast is exactly done."

I hope you will allow me to call the attention of your readers to the fact that there are now in use electric stoves which do precisely that, automatically turn off the electricity when the turkey or roast is done. There are at least four kinds already on the market. In one of which particularly the arrangement is quite complete. For the current may be turned on automatically at any given time, and when the temperature of the oven reaches the desired point a thermostat in the oven shuts off the current, leaving the food to cook at the proper temperature without further attention.

Thus it is possible to start a dinner in the afternoon, while the housekeeper is away shopping or calling. When she reaches home all that is necessary is to serve the dinner.

This is merely to forestall a keen disappointment to some inventor inspired by your words to try his hand, only to find the field already filled.

BESSIE GIBSON CHAMBERLAYNE.  
New York, December 12, 1914.

**Queries and Answers**  
Stamping Type.

Please tell me what numbers to buy for set of type to stamp the days of the month.  
R. F. EDGAR.

Two each of 1 and 2 and one of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0.

**Importing Sealskin.**  
Is the burden of proof that sealskin is not pelagic Ocean animal, the importer who attempts to get sealskin into the United States?  
B. M. B.

It is.

**Allitering Verbes.**  
Please publish the verses beginning, "An Austrian army awfully arrayed," etc., and give name of author.  
PETER WINSTON.

**THE SIEGE OF BELGRADE.**  
An Austrian army awfully arrayed,  
Held by battery, besieged Belgrade;  
Cossack commanders cannonading come,  
Leading destruction's devouring doom;  
Every endeavor engineers essay,  
For fame, for fortune—fighting furious fray—  
Generals 'gainst generals grapple. Gracious God!

How honors Heaven heroic hardihood!  
Infuriate, indiscriminate in ill,  
Kindred kill kinsmen, kinsmen kindred kill,  
Labor low levels loftiest longest lines,  
Men march 'mid mud, 'mid moles, 'mid moles, 'mid murderous mines.

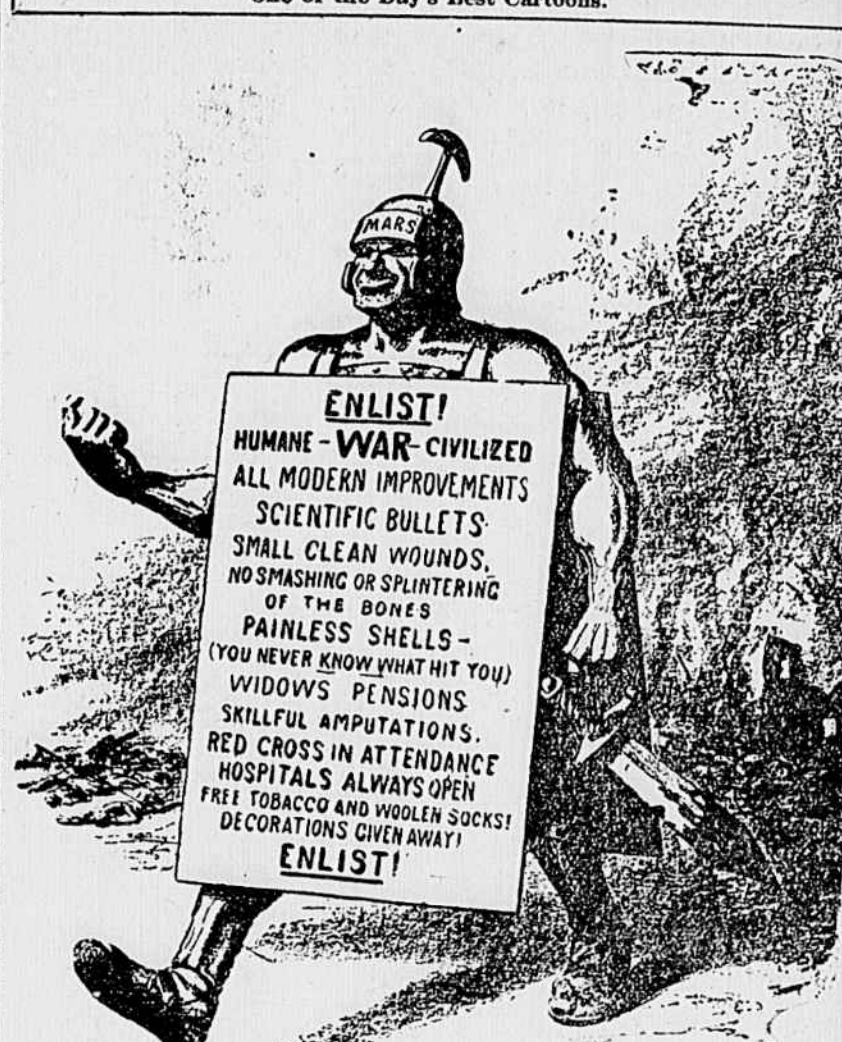
Now noisy, noxious noises, noticed naught  
Of outward obstacles opposing ought;  
Poor patriots, partly purchased, partly pressed;  
Reason returns, religious right redoubled;  
Swarrow stops such sanguinary sounds.  
Truce to thee, Turkey—triumph to thy train,  
Unjust, unwise, unmerciful Ukraine!  
Faintish vain, vain victory vain—  
Why wish we warfare? Wherefore welcome were  
Nerxes, Ximenes, Xanthus, Xavier?

Zeus, Zeus, Zeus, zealous, zealous, yield your yell,  
Zeno's, Zapata's, Zoroaster's zeal,  
And all attracting—arms against acts appeal.

The name of the author is unknown.

## INDUCEMENTS

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



## VEXED PROBLEMS OF TAX-REFORM

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The recently published report of the Virginia Tax Commission confirms the general opinion that our tax system is bad; it holds out little prospect of making that system good. The report fully, and even rhetorically, sets forth the hardships and inequalities endured by the long-suffering public.

The need of reform is very great in a State where taxes on real estate vary all the way from the 7.5 assessment on the full value in Fredericksburg to the 12.5 assessment in Carroll. This means that property in Fredericksburg of the same value of that in Carroll pays six times as much State taxes. Furthermore, the report admits that assessors customarily discriminate against the poor and unimportant in favor of the rich; that personal property taxes are excessively unequal; that licenses are too high; that public service corporations are variously burdened—in short, that the whole tax system is in need of a thorough spring cleaning.

Such is the indictment. Now, what are the remedies proposed? These are not immediately evident, owing to the peculiarly awkward form of the report. Only after much labor and travail is the earnest inquirer able to understand what the learned tax commission is driving at. A general statement of grievances at the beginning of the report is followed by piecemeal discussions of specific taxes, which are accompanied by drafts of bills. The bills are endless in length and number, and their effect on the reader, when coupled with dozens of useless statistical tables, is perfect confusion.

After great study, however, certain general propositions may be seen. The commission offers the public two plans of tax reform. The first is a "partial segregation," which means that certain sources of revenue are to be given over entirely to local needs for taxation and certain others to the State. Thus the taxes on real estate and on the properties of water, heat, light, telegraph and other companies will be subject to local taxation, while the State will claim the whole return from clerks of courts, corporations, insurance companies, intangibles and similar classes. The alternative plan is for the appointment of a permanent commission to take charge of taxation.

The "segregation" scheme is a clever attempt to sidestep the question. The greatest complaint has been over unequal real estate assessments as between the various cities and counties, and the resulting disproportion in State taxes, by giving over the entire income from real estate to the local governments this abuse disappears. "Plausible" and "reasonable" it is, but only to amateurs.

In the States where segregation has been tried—New York and Connecticut—it has proved a failure.

**Real Hope in Commission.**  
The other plan of a permanent tax commission and of much more to be desired. Our last state will be worse than the first if the commission is used for the purpose of supplying of jobs. On the other hand, if commissioners are appointed who understand their business, Virginia will profit greatly.

The commission plan, however, was suggested years ago, and the tax commission merely wanders back to it. The report is no improvement on the former one; indeed, it is not as good, but what was to be expected of commissioners who take pains to declare that they have made no general study of taxation and have no wish to remedy only to amateurs.

As was inevitable, the report is crude and superficial, and it has little other use than to serve as the basis of another Richmond, December 15, 1915.

## COST OF MAKING COTTON

A Fort Worth, Texas, business house has issued the following statement to its customers:

We are not in the cotton business, but we know enough to say that an article of a commodity is only worth what it costs to produce. The cost of cotton for sale, if 8 cents per pound, or even 7 cents per pound, is all that a farmer can get for cotton, then that is all cotton is worth, regardless of what it costs to raise it.

It is said that a farmer cannot raise cotton at less than 10 cents per pound, yet a great many thousand farmers got rich, or at least independent, raising it at 5 cents per pound, and that was when everything else that he raised was sold at a very much lower figure than is selling to-day. Besides this, he didn't get \$7 per bale for seed as he gets to-day.

He give you the following comparisons:

He buys a hoe for 50 cents that used to cost 75 cents.  
He buys a file at 15 cents that used to cost 25 cents.

He buys a single tire at 35 cents that used to cost 50 cents.  
He buys a sweep at 8 cents that used to cost 15 cents per pound.

He buys wire at 3 1/2 cents that used to be 5 cents per pound.  
He buys hams at 50 cents that used to cost 75 cents.

He buys traces at 45 cents that used to cost 75 cents.  
He pays 60 cents for picking, where he used to pay \$1.

He borrows money at 8 per cent to 10 per cent, where he used to pay 12 percent and 15 per cent.  
He sells wheat at \$1 that used to bring 60 cents.

He sells oats at 50 cents that used to bring 18 cents.  
He sells corn at 75 cents that used to bring 15 cents.

He sells hay at \$14 that used to bring \$4 per ton.  
He sells turkeys at \$2.25 and sometimes \$4 that used to bring 60 cents to 75 cents.

When he was confronted with the above conditions he bought land on time, cleared it, fenced it, and soon paid for it, raising cotton at 7 cents per pound. But, if, indeed, he is making less profit this year than formerly, the same condition is true with you, and with us, and with the business world at large. He ought not to put himself in the attitude of a mendicant, or as the Indian, a ward of the government. He ought to be a good

sport. He ought to take his losses just as much as he takes his gains gracefully as the rest of us are doing.

While the above figures are not absolutely correct, nevertheless, they are accurate enough to demonstrate that the farmer is getting the best of the situation and is enjoying life while the balance of us are sweating blood. The retail merchant owes it to himself, to his jobber and to his bank to insist on the farmer's selling at least a part of his cotton. A man has an unquestioned right to speculate on his own money, but he has no right to speculate on the other fellow's money. The farmer has a right to hold his cotton for a while, but he has no right to hold it down, if he does not wish to hold his cotton to the financial embarrassment of the retail merchant.

Who, since spring, has clothed and fed his wife and children and furnished him with the means with which to make that cotton. It is hard on the farmer to be disappointed about the price, which he thought he was going to get, but it is a whole lot harder on the retail merchant to go broke because the farmer won't sell his cotton and pay his honest debts. The conditions are not half as hard on him as on the retail merchant who is losing hundreds and thousands of dollars because the farmer, by holding his cotton, has stopped the entire machinery of business. Nor is it quite as hard on him as on the thousands of hungry men and women which his bad business judgment and rebellion at fate has thrown out of employment, and in many cases, on the charity of the world.

We suggested to merchants generally and we insist on our customers, especially, pressing the farmer to sell his cotton and pay his debts that the retail merchant may pay his debts and that we may also pay our debts. These remarks may appear to you somewhat gratuitous, at the same time they are well worthy of your thoughtful consideration.

## Dyspeptic Philosophy

(From the New York Times.)

We should all have an aim in life, but most we need a mighty big target.

Don't look for trouble unless you know just what to do with it when you find it.

When an unpopular man is stuck on himself he